



12/19/05

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- 1 I would like to comment on the BLM's Draft Vegetation Treatments on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic EIS, or (*PEIS*).
- 2 We support alternative B as it provides for the greatest **long term** benefits with the least impacts. These benefits include reduced wildland fire risk, improved vegetation condition, improved fish & wildlife habitat, and improved watershed function.
- 3 Alternative B recognizes that herbicides are one of the best tools for use in correcting many unnatural and harmful conditions caused by non-native and noxious weeds. Attention to detail in the plan shows that the BLM will use herbicides in a responsible manner. Alternative B also has an excellent methodical process in place to evaluate new herbicides when they become available.
- 4 The BLM has done an outstanding job of putting together a team of experts and professionals to develop the alternatives. Their consultation and cooperation with other agencies strengthens and enhances the plan. They have correctly labeled Alternative B (The preferred alternative), because it provides for the best, preferred long term outcome.

Sincerely,

  
Duane Zentner  
Forester